

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 13 2004

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Approved for use through 8/30/00, OMB 0681-0031
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
Attn: Jori R. Schiffman
GAU: 3679

Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8

OFFICIAL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the
Patent and Trademark Office

on Jan. 13, 2004
Date


Signature

Mark Clodfelter

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of transmission, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.

Faxed are:

Proposed amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 for
application no: 10/068,220

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.03 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 13 2004

In re Application of:
Joseph E. Haring
For: TELESCOPIC NUT
Application number: 10/068,220
Filed: 02/06/2002
Docket no: HARINGPAT3
GAU: 3679
Examiner: Schiffman, Jori

OFFICIAL

PROPOSED AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

REMARKS

In accordance with a telephonic conference held on Jan. 12, 2004 with Flemming Saether with Jori R. Schiffman in attendance, the Examiner indicated the claims would be allowable if a shank portion of the "threaded member" of claim 1 was specified to be longer than the coaxial bores in the workpieces through which the shank portion extends, which is basically the composite invention defined by independent claim 1 and dependent 6. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended herewith restating and incorporating the limitations of claim 6, and claim 6 cancelled with this amendment. Likewise, claim 13 is cancelled with this amendment, with the limitations thereof incorporated into the composite invention defined by claims 7, 8 and 10.

Independent claim 7 is also amended for clarity to correct antecedent basis of the "cylindrical member" and "fastener member", and claim 8 is amended for clarity to state that the threads of said cylindrical member contact said shank.

With respect to the objections to dependent claims 11 and 12, it should be noted at line 8 of claim 7 (as amended) from which they depend

specifies "threads on an outer surface of said cylindrical member...", with claim 10 specifying at line 2 that the "cylindrical member extends beyond said fastener member...". Also, Fig. 4 shows the threaded cylindrical member 2a extending beyond the fastener member, and a threaded portion of a bolt extending beyond member 2a. A locking nut 2b, 2c (dashed lines) may be threaded onto either or both of the bolt or member 2a. The accompanying description for this is found at the middle paragraph of Pg. 7, as originally filed. Thus, the objection to claims 10 and 11 should be obviated.

The rejections to claims 1 - 5, 7 - 12 and 19 - 20 should be moot in view of the telephonic conference noted above.

As all the objections and rejections are believed obviated, favorable action is respectfully requested. No new matter is added with this amendment. In the event there are outstanding issues that remain to be resolved, a telephone call is solicited.

By:



Mark Clodfelter, Agent of Record
Registration number: 34,564
555 Sparkman Drive, Suite 1602D
Huntsville, Ala. 35816
Tel. (256) 895-8339

1 1 (currently amended). A nut assembly for joining two or more workpieces
2 together comprising;

3 a first fastener member having a first generally cylindrical inner bore
4 provided with a first set of threads therein,

5 a second fastener member provided with a second set of threads on
6 an exterior surface thereof for threadable engagement with said first set of
7 threads, said second fastener member having a second generally cylindrical
8 inner bore provided with a third set of threads therein, 1wp

9 said first set of threads, said second set of threads and said third set
10 of threads all being cut in the same direction and being of approximately the
11 same pitch,

12 ~~for a~~ a threaded member having a shank longer than coaxial bores in said
13 workpieces through which said threaded member extends, said threaded
14 member further having a conventional thread/shank interface.

15 whereby as said a threaded member having ~~a conventional~~
16 ~~thread/shank interface~~ is threadably advanced into said third set of threads of
17 said second fastener member, said third set of threads of said second fastener
18 member contact said conventional thread/shank interface of said threaded
19 member, with further relative advancement rotation between said first fastener
20 member and said second fastener member causing said first fastener member
21 to be advanced past said conventional thread/shank interface of said threaded
22 member and contact a said workpiece adjacent said nut assembly.

1

1 2 (previously amended). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said
2 first fastener member and said second fastener member are attached by a
3 temporary attachment so that said second fastener member initially makes
4 contact with said conventional thread/shank interface, after which additional
5 torque is required to break said attachment to advance said first fastener
6 member past said conventional thread/shank interface.

1 3 (previously amended). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said
2 attachment provides resistance to turning of said second fastener member
3 within said first fastener member in a threading direction so as to tighten said
4 second fastener member against said conventional thread/shank interface.

1 4 (original). A fastener as set forth in claim 2 wherein said attachment is a
2 bonding agent.

1 5 (previously amended). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said
2 threaded member is a conventionally configured bolt.

1 6 (cancelled). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 1 further comprising at
2 least two coplanar members each having an opening therein, said openings
3 being coaxially aligned, with said threaded member extending through said
4 openings so that a shank of said threaded member is disposed within said
5 openings and said conventional thread/shank interface extends beyond said

6 openings, whereby when a said nut assembly is threaded onto said threaded
7 member, tightening of said threaded member on said nut assembly causes said
8 second fastener member to contact said conventional thread/shank interface,
9 with further rotation of said first fastener member causing advancement
10 thereof past said conventional thread/shank interface in order to contact a
11 respective one of said coplanar members, compressing said coplanar members
12 together.

1 7 (currently amended). A fastener for use in conjunction with a conventional
2 threaded member bolt-like-article having a shank longer than openings in a
3 workpiece through which said shank extends, said threaded member further
4 provided with ~~and~~ a conventional thread/shank interface and comprising:
5 a fastener member having a first bore with internal threads therein,
6 a generally cylindrical member having a second bore, with threads
7 disposed in said second bore for threadably engaging threads of said threaded
8 member bolt-like-article, and threads on an outer surface of said cylindrical
9 member for threadably engaging said internal threads of said ~~first~~ fastener
10 member so that when said threads of said threaded member bolt-like-article
11 are threadably advanced into said second bore, said shank engages an end of
12 said threads of said ~~second~~ cylindrical member and blocks further
13 advancement of said threaded member thereof, with further rotation of said
14 threaded member bolt-like-article advancing said ~~first~~ fastener member past
15 said shank and tightened against a workpiece.

1 8 (currently amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 7 further comprising an
2 attachment coupling said fastener member and said cylindrical member
3 together so that after threads of said cylindrical member contact ~~contact~~ said
4 shank, additional torque is required to break said attachment so that said
5 fastener member may be advanced over said shank.

1 9 (previously amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 8 wherein said
2 attachment provides resistance to turning of said cylindrical member within
3 said fastener member in a direction to tighten said fastener.

1 10 (currently amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 8 wherein said
2 cylindrical member extends beyond said fastener member when said threaded
3 member ~~bolt-like article~~ is tightened.

1 11 (original). A fastener as set forth in claim 10 further comprising a locking
2 member threadable onto an exterior portion of said cylindrical member, and
3 threadably abutable against said fastener member for locking said fastener
4 member and said cylindrical member together.

1 12 (currently amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 10 wherein a threaded
2 portion of said threaded member extends beyond said cylindrical member, with
3 a locking member threadable onto said threaded member ~~bolt-like article~~ and
4 threadably abutable against said cylindrical member for locking said fastener

5 member, said cylindrical member and said threaded member bolt-like article
6 together.

1 13 (cancelled). A fastener as set forth in claim 10 wherein said workpiece
2 further comprises at least two coplanar members each having an opening, each
3 said opening coaxially aligned, with said shank extending through both
4 openings and terminating therebeyond so that when said fastener is threaded
5 onto said threaded bolt-like article, said generally cylindrical member first
6 contacts said shank, with additional torque applied to said fastener member or
7 said bolt-like article threaded bolt or other threaded member breaking said
8 attachment so that said fastener member may be threaded onto said cylindrical
9 member to abut an adjacent said coplanar member.

1 14 (withdrawn). A method for fastening adjoining members wherein a shank of
2 a threaded article passes slightly beyond said adjoining members comprising
3 the steps of:
4 1) threadably positioning a sleeve having exterior threads and interior threads
5 within a threaded bore of a fastening member,
6 2) threadably advancing said sleeve onto said article until said sleeve abuts a
7 thread/shank interface of said threaded article, halting advancement of said
8 sleeve onto said article,

9 3) continuing to threadably advance said fastening member on said sleeve
10 until said fastening member is sufficiently tightened against an adjacent one of
11 said adjoining members.

1 15 (withdrawn). A method as set forth in claim 14 further comprising the step
2 of releasably attaching said fastening member and said sleeve together.

1 16 (withdrawn). A method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising the step
2 of constructing said sleeve of a length longer than said fastening member.

1 17 (withdrawn). A method as set forth in claim 16 further comprising the step
2 of threading a locking nut onto said sleeve in abutting relation with said
3 fastening member to lock said sleeve, said fastening member and said
4 adjoining members together.

1 18 (withdrawn). A method as set forth in claim 16 further comprising
2 threading a locking nut onto threads of said threaded article in abutting
3 relation against said sleeve.

1 19 (previously amended). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said
2 first fastener member is fixedly attached to an adjacent one of said workpieces,
3 with rotation of said threaded member advancing said second fastener member
4 to said conventional thread/shank interface, with further rotation of said

5 threaded member tightening said second fastener member and c mpressing
6 said workpieces together.

1 20 (currently amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 7 wherein said
2 fastener member is affixed to an adjacent said workpiece so that rotation of
3 said threaded member ~~bolt-like article~~ tightens said fastener and said threaded
4 member ~~bolt-like article~~ against said workpiece.